

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2020

Chief Justice Charles T. Canady  
Florida Supreme Court  
500 South Duval Street,  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1925.

Dear Chief Justice Charles Canady,

We write to express our concern in anticipation of the inevitable financial consequences of the Executive Order of Governor DeSantis<sup>1</sup> and the June 8, 2020 Administrative Order of the Florida Supreme Court<sup>2</sup> regarding foreclosures and evictions due to nonpayment of rent. Although most of the state has begun to reopen, homeowners and tenants continue to face ongoing financial hardships due to this unprecedented public health emergency. Many Floridians still have not received all of their earned state unemployment benefits or their unemployment benefits provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Once these court proceedings resume, we believe the Florida Courts should implement programs similar to the 2009 Statewide Managed Mediation Program<sup>3</sup> for evictions due to nonpayment of rent and foreclosures. Beyond the financial and legal implications of a foreclosure or eviction lawsuit for an individual homeowner or tenant, the overall effects of expiration of a sixty-day statewide moratorium may lead to housing insecurity and unnecessary strain on an already backlogged court system.

Florida Courts should work creatively to reduce the inevitable financial and legal consequences of this national pandemic, through mediation or other alternative dispute resolutions for the millions of Floridians facing financial hardship. We appreciate your full and fair consideration of our letter, consistent with applicable rules, statutes, and regulations, and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2020/EO\\_20-137.pdf](https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2020/EO_20-137.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/content/download/637271/7239420/AOSC20-23%20Amendment%203.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/content/download/242863/2142008/AOSC09-54\\_Foreclosures.pdf](https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/content/download/242863/2142008/AOSC09-54_Foreclosures.pdf)

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Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Al Lawson, Jr.  
Member of Congress